

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 20, 2002

CONTACT:

Milissa Reiersen
Information Officer
(615)741-2257 (O)
(615)308-3705 (C)

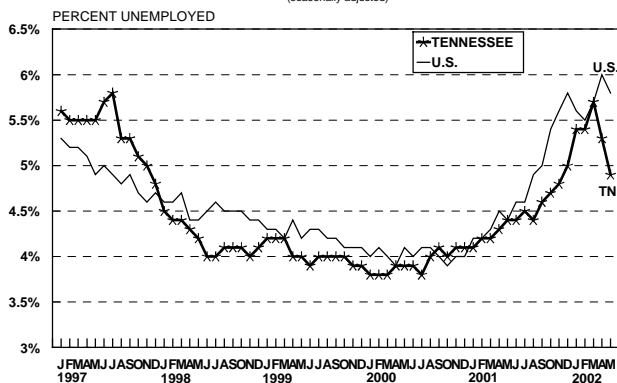
NASHVILLE—Tennessee's unemployment rate for the month of May is 4.9 percent, down from 5.3 percent in April, Commissioner of Labor & Workforce Development, Michael E. Magill announced today. The state rate remains below the national rate of 5.8 percent.

"The state's employment picture may be showing us that Tennessee's economy is slowly stabilizing," Magill said. "Seasonal increases in retail trade, construction, transportation, and services, were partially offset by declines in state education, personal services, and electronics."

April to May figures showed employment increased in retail trade by 1,800 jobs due to increases in demand for building materials and garden supplies as well as increases in eating and drinking places. Services increased by 2,600, due to seasonal increases in hotels, business services, and amusement/recreational services. Construction jobs were also on the increase in May, up by 1,700 jobs. State education jobs declined by 4,200 due to the summer break. Personal services declined as well by 2,200. Electronic and other electric equipment jobs decreased by 400.

From May 2001 to May 2002, services grew by 18,000 and local government (non-education) jobs increased by 3,500. Major decreases took place in manufacturing, down by 12,800 with the greatest losses in the apparel industry. Transportation jobs decreased as well, by 5,500 and construction declined by 2,200.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - U.S. & TENNESSEE
JANUARY 1997 - PRESENT
(seasonally adjusted)



LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES SUMMARY - TENNESSEE

May 2002 (preliminary) - BM2001

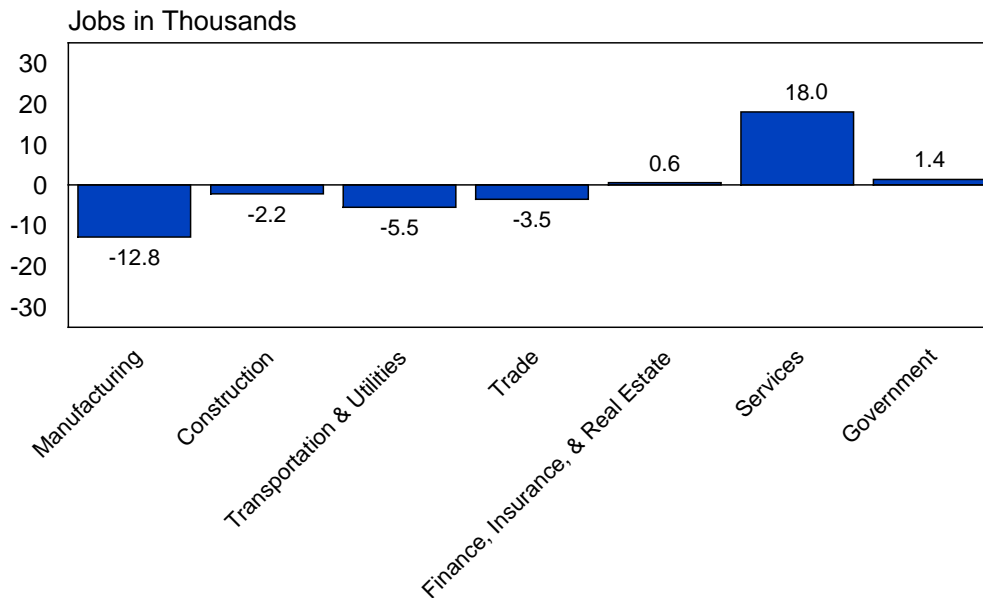
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate		Rate Change
				May	Apr.	
UNITED STATES	142,768,000	134,417,000	8,351,000	5.8 %	6.0 %	-0.2 %
TENNESSEE	2,879,900	2,737,500	142,400	4.9	5.3	-0.4

Not Seasonally Adjusted

UNITED STATES	142,253,000	134,365,000	7,888,000	5.5 %	5.7 %	-0.2 %
TENNESSEE	2,858,100	2,731,300	126,800	4.4	5.0	-0.6

OVER THE YEAR JOB CHANGES

By Major Industry (May 2001-2002)



County and MSA rates will be released on Thursday, June 27, 2002.

--30--

(02-071)

NOTE: Information will be available on the Internet; enter "http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/labor_figures". Sound may be obtained from the Governor's NewsLine at 1-800-342-1483 or Nashville area 741-4877.

NOTE: Tennessee's employment and unemployment statistics are based on two major surveys. The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a survey by place of residence providing estimates on the number of people in the labor force, total employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate. Beginning in January 1992, the CPS data are seasonally adjusted for all states as directed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The business survey collects data by place of work and creates information about jobs in various industries. The business survey data are non-seasonally adjusted at this time.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

El Departamento del Trabajo y de la Fuerza Laboral es un organismo empresarial que aplica la igualdad de oportunidades. Los servicios y ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para los individuos con impedimentos si los solicitan.